Adverse impact of socio-economic inequalities on primary education

210. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that the everwidening socio-economic inequalities have been adversely affecting the infrastructure and quality of primary schools in rural areas;

(b) if so, what steps the Ministry would take to implement the principle of equity in primary education in rural areas; and

(c) whether the Ministry would prepare an action programme to strengthen the infrastructure and quality of primary schools in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) The overarching goal of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) is to bridge gender and social category gaps. Under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), several activities have been undertaken to improve infrastructure and the quality of elementary education which includes, inter alia construction of school buildings, additional classrooms, recruitment of additional teachers to improve the pupil teacher ratio, in-service training of teachers free distribution of textbooks for all children, regular academic support through Block Resource Centres and Cluster Resource Centres and regular evaluation of students.

SSA resources are carefully targetted to the districts with deficit in school infrastructure.

Greater private sector participation in secondary education

211. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has a proposal to allow greater private sector participation in secondary education, wherein the Centre would bear 33 per cent of the cost while the States and private sector would contribute the rest, to set up model schools in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) Central Government had decided to implement a centrally sponsored scheme for setting up of 6000 high quality model schools, at the rate of one per block, to set standards of excellence for other schools in the area. Under this scheme, 2500 schools are proposed to be set up under the public-private partnership mode. The sharing of cost among Central and State Governments and private partner has not been finalized.

Government and private colleges in the country

212. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state: